Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, Service to others is a hallmark of the American character, and throughout our history, citizens have stepped up to meet our challenges by volunteering in their communities; and,

Whereas, Since its creation in 1994, the AmeriCorps national service program has proven to be a highly effective way to engage Americans in meeting national and community needs since its creation in 1994; and,

Whereas, Each year AmeriCorps provides opportunities for more than 85,000 citizens across the nation, including approximately 100 in South Dakota, to give back to our communities, our state, and our country; and,

Whereas, Since 1994, more than 637 men and women, including 1,234 from South Dakota, have taken the AmeriCorps pledge to "get things done for America"; and,

Whereas, Those AmeriCorps members have served more than 774 million hours nationwide, including more than 1,446,000 served by residents from South Dakota, helping to improve the lives of our state's most vulnerable citizens, strengthening our educational system, protecting our environment, and contributing to our public safety; and,

Whereas, The Corporation for National & Community Service plays a key role in determining where AmeriCorps resources should be directed to meet state and local needs, and AmeriCorps' members serve with more than 3,300 nonprofit, community, educational, and faith-based community groups nationwide, including more than 32 in South Dakota; and,

Whereas, Last year, AmeriCorps recruited and supervised more than 2.4 million community volunteers for the organizations they serve, and after their terms of service end, they remain engaged in communities as volunteers, teachers, public servants, and nonprofit leaders in disproportionately high levels; and,

Whereas, Residents of South Dakota have earned more than $3,000,000 in Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards to help pay for college or pay back student loans; and,

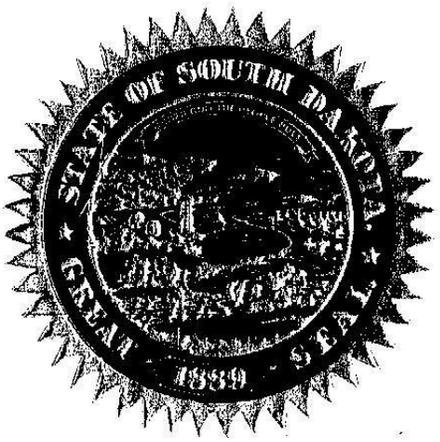
Whereas, Last year, Congress passed the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, which sets AmeriCorps on a path to grow to 250,000 members by the year 2017, and focuses AmeriCorps on critical national issues of education, health, clean energy, veterans, and economic opportunity; and,

Whereas, AmeriCorps Week, May 8-15, 2010, provides an opportune time for the people of South Dakota to salute AmeriCorps members and alums for their service, to thank AmeriCorps' community partners, and to bring more Americans into service:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim May 8-15, 2010, as

AMERICORPS WEEK

in South Dakota, and urge citizens to thank AmeriCorps members and alumni for their service.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Ninth Day of April in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Ten.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Teresa J. Bray, Deputy
Chris Nelson, Secretary of State